



Volume V

ORINDA, CALIFORNIA, AUGUST 1, 1941

Number 2

ORINDA U. S. O. DRIVE REACHES \$647.50

\$647.50 has been raised in Orinda for the United Services Organization through the efforts of Walter Gibbons, George Crary, S. S. Hopping, Wilbur Warner, Mrs. Nelson Schotchler, Miss Heffner, Dick Steiner, Ned de Laveaga, Eleanor Phillips, William Penn Mott, Jr., Charles F. Bailey, E. J. Land, Neal East, George Brockhurst, Steve Balingier, Esther Anderson, Clay Ludlow, Beatrice Cleborne, John Lax, John Morrison, Phil Lemasney, Lyn Bell and Arthur Drake, who called upon many Orindans who willingly and cheerfully donated to the cause.

Warren Harold wishes to thank those who donated and those who gave their time to make the collections.

If you have not donated you can still do so at his office.

ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Construction of the new unit for Acalanes High School is progressing according to schedule. The floors have been poured and the framework is up. The Board of Trustees have ordered new furniture and it will be completely installed before the school opens for the fall semester.

Due to the new lower Federal appropriations, the W. P. A. threatened to abandon the Acalanes project by July 8. However, by making use of a reduced crew, Acalanes has managed to remain one of the four surviving W. P. A. projects in Contra Costa County. With the reduced crew, work is being carried on as quickly as possible, developing the site and pouring concrete for the swimming pool. The entrance road to the school is also being resurfaced at this time.

Reports from the University of California Subject A examination taken by seven members of the graduating class were most gratifying as six passed, according to Mrs. Stanley Warburton, principal. At a conference sponsored jointly by the State Department of Education and the University of California on July 29, Mr. Warburton made an address on the subject of "School-Community Programs in Non-Metropolitan Areas."

(Continued on Page 6)

AUGUST MEETING NOTICE

The regular meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Friday evening, August 1, at 8:15 p. m. in the Auditorium of the Orinda School.

At this meeting President Morrison intends to discuss the local road problem and the bus service.

SCIENCE AND ART COMBINE TO CREATE NEW ORINDA THEATRE

Black light, auditory amplifiers, modern murals and big names are but a few of the innovations which will delight local amusement seekers on the opening of the Orinda Theater some time in September. The decorating contract on the movie palace now building at the crossroads has been awarded, according to B. B. Randall, manager, to Tony Heinsbergen of Los Angeles. Mr. Heinsbergen is nationally famous for his decoration of several of the newer Federal buildings in Washington, and is known locally for his work on the Persian Room of the Sir Francis Drake Hotel and on several of the San Francisco Bay Theaters.

Unknown heretofore in theater decoration, says Mr. Randall, will be the featured use of full wall murals. Combined with this form of decoration will be "black light", science's latest contribution to the art of theater lighting. This fluorescence provides for a basic illumination of the auditorium at all times without interfering with the display of pictures.

For the convenience of those patrons who may be slightly hard of hearing, many seats will be provided with ear-phones, which will amplify the sound for those using the instruments without disturbing those seated alongside.

Free parking area will be provided close to the theater, for more than 200 cars.

Mr. Randall is unable at this time to give the exact date of opening, but asks that Orinda residents watch for future announcements in the News.

Contra Costa County U.S.O. Drive has gone over its \$16,000 quota by \$2000.

ORINDA ROADS Plan Under Consideration for Solution of Road Problem

Recognizing that probably the most acute community problem confronting the residents of Orinda is the road situation, the committee on roads of the Orinda Improvement Association probably has been one of the hardest working groups within the community organization.

With the population of Orinda increasing at a rapid rate during recent years and with the consequent road traffic multiplying accordingly, all of the roads have been subjected to increasingly heavy use with no very satisfactory plan ever having been devised to accommodate the problem.

According to community residents who have served on the roads committee, the principle difficulty appears to lie in the fact that no original feasible plan anticipating the current heavy traffic was originally devised when the roads were first laid out.

Under the terms of the original Hacienda Homes deeds, provision was made for road assessments on a front foot basis but subsequent study of this plan indicates that the provision was an arbitrary assessment of \$2.50 per lot is supposed to be collected annually is understood to have been substituted in place of the original plan. Some contest has been offered to the latter plan on the grounds that it does not coincide with the stipulations in the original plan.

Since the road situation is becoming steadily more acute and because the assessment plan currently in effect appears to have failed in its purpose, the roads committee of the Improvement Association has developed a plan whereby the association would assume the powers now vested in Hacienda Homes to make adequate road assessments.

Briefly, the plan involves the transfer of the assets of Hacienda Homes to E. I. deLaveaga and the transfer of the powers of the corporation to the Improvement Association. Under this plan Hacienda Homes would cease to exist and the power of assessment for road maintenance would be vested in the community's administrative organization.

(Continued on Page 6)

ORINDA NEWS

Official Publication of The
ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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JULY MEETING

Service Discussed Roads and Bus

Delayed one week because of the holiday week-end following the Fourth, the July meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association was held in the auditorium of the Orinda Grammar School Friday night, July 11, with Incoming President John T. Morrison conducting his inaugural session.

Holidays and vacations probably accounted for a small attendance but the group that answered President Morrison's call carried on the spirit of these meetings with lively debate of current problems confronting the association and the community.

Roads Committee Chairman E. H. Sibbett presented a brief outline of the plan now being developed by his committee and indicated that important phases of the plan then pending probably would be completed for comprehensive study at the August meeting.

Discussion of the transportation problem for Orinda residents centered around the confusion resulting from uncertain schedules and tariff rates since the present operators took over the service and it was recommended that a representative of the Greyhound Lines be invited to attend the August meeting for the purpose of clarifying the transportation issue.

Since residents of Orinda have a direct interest in utility charges for this area, the information Bill Fleager presented to the meeting about a possible rate reduction for electricity was received enthusiastically. Mr. Fleager pointed out that an electric rate more favorable than the one now enjoyed by Orinda residents was provided by the utility company for communities similar in size and character to Orinda on October 8, 1940. Action by the association may result in the lowered schedule being made available to this community.

New committee appointments for the ensuing year were announced by President Morrison as follows:

Publicity Committee:
 Mrs. R. D. Harrison, chairman
 E. I. Spiegl
 W. A. Patterson
 Mrs. Marshall Shapiro
 Mrs. E. I. Spiegl
 Mrs. George Hickok
 Mrs. Walter Wood
 Mrs. Herbert Dills

Program Committee:
 U. B. Smith, chairman
 Alan Young
 Mrs. Harrison Ketcham

Road Committee:
 E. H. Sibbett, chairman
 Clarence Fleager
 H. W. Gentry
 E. E. Hopping
 Miles York

Following adjournment of the meeting, refreshments were served by Mrs. John T. Morrison and Mrs. Harrison Ketcham.

POST OFFICE

Orinda as a community has always been interested in improvements that can be made. With the growth of the community there comes need for better and more extensive services. Last year there was discussion of better postal service. Nothing came of this and the need is still here for improvement of this service.

There are two types of service which it would be possible to have in Orinda, an independent office which would rate as a fourth or possibly a third class office, or a Federal Branch of the Berkeley Post Office operated by a

Federal employee. There are many benefits to be found in each of these and with further study we could decide which would most favorably serve Orinda.

Mr. Whiting of the Berkeley Post Office has at all times been most interested in our service and cooperative with our efforts for better service. He would, at this time we feel sure, be most helpful in aiding us to obtain the best possible postal service for this community. It is up to the residents to decide what they wish and then to act to obtain it.

AUGUST MEETING

If residents of Orinda would like to air their views about pet problems affecting their community life in this lovely valley, they should heed the urgent invitation of President John T. Morrison to attend the August meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association.

If they have no pet problems of their own to pose but would like to get their neighbor's slant on what's bothering him, they should still accept President Morrison's hearty invitation to be on hand at the Orinda Grammar School on the night of Friday, August 1st.

Right now the problem of how to solve the road question in this community is paramount with the officers of the association and they are determined to evolve a workable plan that will receive the endorsement of the majority of the residents.

Whatever the ultimate program that is put into motion may be, it will cost money so if they are any Orinda residents who demand to be heard before they are assessed they had better speak now or willingly accept the will of the majority. The matter will be fully and openly debated so that no one can justly say he had no voice in the matter. The place to say it if you have something to say is the Orinda Grammar School on the evening of Friday, August 1st.

The place to hear it if you haven't anything to say but want to hear all about it is still the August 1st meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association.

Since the cost of membership in the association is not an item of concern, the only excuse for failure to participate in the administrative activities of the community's only civic organization is complete lack of interest.

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LAFAYETTE CINEMA TO OPEN

In step with the increasing population of Contra Costa County the management of the El Rey Theatre in Walnut Creek this month will open the Park Theatre in Lafayette. Thursday, August 14th, according to Elwood Lawes, manager, has been set aside for the Kleig lights and the autographs in the cement. The new 500-seat house is of simple style, designed for comfort rather than glamour. Loge seats are provided throughout, and Mr. Lawes promises the latest sound and projection equipment. Patrons are assured of first run pictures and releases will be timed to avoid simultaneous showings of pictures at various houses in the chain.

COUNTY NEWS ITEMS

The Contra Costa County average tax rate for the tax year of 1940-1941 was \$3.62 per \$100 as compared to a state average of \$4.18 for the same period.

The assessed valuation of Contra Costa County increased \$6,164,537 during the past year. The total valuation of the county is \$120,174,445 an all time high. Total valuation in Orinda is \$2,736,030 a gain of \$377,680 over last year.

Warren Harrold, manager of the Contra Costa Housing Authority, received word that President Roosevelt has signed approval of a contract appropriating \$932,000 for low cost housing in the county.

LENDING LIBRARY

Mrs. Myra Manasse has established a lending library and a magazine agency in her Gift Shop.

Mrs. Manasse is supplied with all of the latest books and will receive new ones as they are published. This is a welcome addition to Orinda and will be greatly enjoyed by many of the residents. Mrs. Manasse carries a wide variety of magazines which are displayed in the store.

**NEW HARDWARE STORE
TO OPEN AUGUST 1**

Mr. J. Williams will open his Orinda Hardware Store in the Vashell Building on Moraga Highway across from the new theatre on or before August 1.

Mr. Williams will carry a complete line of hardware, paint, garden supplies and electrical equipment.



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ORINDA NEWS

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PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. George S. Bennett are on a vacation trip in Kings River Canyon.

* * *

The Misses Jane and Anne Deben of Glendale are house guests of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Badgley.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Weido Lancione have leased their house on El Toyonal and moved to Vallejo.

* * *

Mrs. George P. Robbins is in southern California on a vacation trip.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest St. Louis, Gladys, Orma and Raymond St. Louis have just returned from a month's motor trip to Northern Minnesota and Yellowstone Park. They all report a most enjoyable trip and Mr. St. Louis says that fishing is excellent in the Park this year.

* * *

Mrs. Frank Teiche is visiting her mother in Chicago.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Herzog sailed on the Lurline July 24th for a vacation trip to Hawaii. Earlier this summer the Herzogs, together with their four children, spent several weeks at Catalina.

* * *

On July 22 Mrs. J. A. Herzog entertained at a barbecue luncheon at their home on La Espiral honoring her niece Harriet Herzog, a student at Vassar College, who is now taking a six weeks' special course at the University of California.

* * *

Mrs. C. L. Parham entertained some of the members of the recent Girl Scout training group at her home on July 18th. The afternoon was spent discussing plans for the organization of another Intermediate Girl Scout troop. Those present were Mrs. H. A. Summers, Miss Mildred Hickok, Mrs. Alden Macomber, Mrs. Byron Nelson, Mrs. G. F. Hickok and Mrs. Richard Laney.

* * *

Mrs. Alvin Wold cut short her stay at Tahoe in order to entertain guests from the east at her Minerinda home.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hill of Miner Road spent a week-end during the middle of July in the Mother Lode country.

* * *

Barbara McVicker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Telfer, recently returned from Tall Timbers Camp near Pinecrest.

* * *

Mrs. Alden Macomber, with her two children, Nancy and Jimmie, made a trip to the Russian River to visit friends.

Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson have just returned from a trip to British Columbia.

* * *

Mrs. Alexander Bayley Hayward entertained for Mrs. Charles Judy of Honolulu at tea on July 18th. Mrs. Judy, a recent bride, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey W. Mayo.

Mr. and Mrs. Judy will be in the States most of the fall and winter as Mr. Judy is studying at Stanford University.

* * *

Doctor and Mrs. Alexander Bayley Hayward celebrated their twenty-first anniversary on July 20th. Many friends in the bay area and neighbors called during the afternoon and evening.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. P. LeMasney of Camino Don Miguel have returned from their vacation spent in Seattle, Washington.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Parham of Via Floreado had as their house guests during July, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. McKee of Seattle, Washington.

* * *

Miss Virginia Hickok attended the Jerkin Camp re-union at Camp Chaparral, Region Girl Scout camp in the Santa Cruz mountains, the week-end of July 26th. While Virginia was at camp Miss Mildred and Mrs. G. F. Hickok also enjoyed the beautiful redwoods in the Big Basin National Park.

* * *

Girl Scouts who attend Camp Chaparral during the first two weeks of July were Sally Tinkham, Clare Breuner, Nancy Chantler and Joan Jacobus. Nancy Campbell, however, spent the entire month of July there. All of the girls enjoyed this, their first Girl Scout camping experience and came home thrilled with their adventure.

* * *

Returning from a quick trip to Canada, Mrs. Wallace Ballinger of Minerinda left for Lake Tahoe where she and Mr. Ballinger have recently acquired a summer home.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Le Masney of Camino Don Miguel enjoyed their visit to Seattle so much they made a second trip during the early part of July.

COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWS

During the month of August, Sunday morning church services of the Orinda Community Church will be held at 9:30 a. m. Dr. Harry S. McCready of Kingston, Rhode Island, formerly minister of the Plymouth Congregational Church in Oakland, will be guest pastor, during the absence of Dr. Miles B. Fisher, who is on vacation.

Parents and friends are cordially invited to bring their children to Sunday school and remain for church service held at the same time.

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ORINDA GIRL TO WED
 August 1st is the date chosen by Miss Dorothy Heinrici for her wedding to Mr. Richard Evans. The ceremony will take place at the Piedmont Community Church at eight o'clock and Dr. Miles B. Fisher of the Orinda Community Church will officiate. Mr. Garland M. Heinrici will give his daughter in marriage and more than a hundred guests have been bidden to the wedding.

Miss Heinrici has chosen as her bridesmaids the Misses Dorothy Luty, Barbara Hatch, Jane Yager, Virginia Doten and Mrs. J. K. Griffiths. The bride's sister, Miss Helen Heinrici, will be maid of honor.

Miss Barbara Herzog and Miss Holly Hammond will light the tapers in the church for the ceremony. The church will be simply decorated in white flowers and myriads of candles.

After the ceremony a reception will be held at the home of the bride's parents. The to-be-weds plan a honeymoon trip, after which they will take up their residence in their new home at 199 Canyon Drive, Orinda.

The bride-to-be is the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garland M. Heinrici of Orinda and is a popular member of the Orinda younger set. She was graduated from Piedmont High School and commenced her studies at the University of California, but after a year, romance interrupted.

Mr. Evans is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry D. Evans, 4001 Brookdale Avenue, Oakland, and is employed as production manager of the L. A. Young Spring and Wire Company of Oakland.

Church Notices
ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Sunday Services at Casa Verano, El Toyonal and Orinda Highway — Sunday School at 9:30 a. m., Church worship at 11:00 a. m. Dr. Miles B. Fisher, pastor. Christian Endeavor for 'teen age young people at 7 p. m. New residents and visitors in the community cordially welcome.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
 The Christian Science Society of Orinda holds regular Sunday services at 11:00 a. m., and one evening meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 8:00 p. m. Sunday School meets at 9:30 a. m. Pupils up to 20 years are admitted. Reading room open every Wednesday from 2:00 to 4:00 o'clock. Everyone welcome.

CATHOLIC CHURCH
 Sunday Morning Masses the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at 10 o'clock, and the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 8 o'clock.
 The Santa Maria Church Association will hold its next meeting Tuesday evening, August 5, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Malone on Loma Vista.

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Lv. Orinda	Lv. Orinda Corners	Ar. Oakland	Ar. San Francisco
7:31 a.m.	6:52 a.m.	7:15 a.m.	7:40 a.m.
8:01 a.m.	7:35 a.m.	8:05 a.m.	8:15 a.m.
	8:05 p.m.	8:28 a.m.	8:45 a.m.
	9:21 a.m.	9:43 a.m.	10:05 a.m.
	10:39 a.m.	11:02 a.m.	11:25 a.m.
	1:14 p.m.	1:37 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
2:42 p.m.	2:46 p.m.	3:08 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
5:13 p.m.	5:16 p.m.	5:39 p.m.	6:05 p.m.
	6:44 p.m.	7:07 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
	8:49 p.m.	9:10 p.m.	9:35 p.m.

RETURNING

Lv. San Francisco	Lv. Oakland	Ar. Orinda Corners	Ar. Orinda
6:30 a.m.	6:55 a.m.	7:34 a.m.	
8:00 a.m.	8:20 a.m.	8:39 a.m.	8:52 a.m.
9:00 a.m.	9:25 a.m.	9:48 a.m.	
11:00 a.m.	11:23 a.m.	11:46 a.m.	
1:00 p.m.	1:23 p.m.	1:46 p.m.	1:49 p.m.
3:00 p.m.	3:23 p.m.	3:46 p.m.	3:49 p.m.
4:15 p.m.	4:40 p.m.	5:10 p.m.	5:13 p.m.
4:45 p.m.	5:10 p.m.	5:33 p.m.	5:36 p.m.
5:20 p.m.		5:55 p.m.	5:58 p.m.
6:00 p.m.	6:25 p.m.	6:44 p.m.	
7:00 p.m.	7:22 p.m.	7:58 p.m.	
9:20 p.m.	9:40 p.m.	10:14 p.m.	

CONNECTING SCHEDULES BETWEEN ORINDA AND ORINDA CORNERS

Leave Orinda Corners for Berkeley		
7:35 a. m.	9:21 a. m.	
12:18 p. m.	2:46 p. m.	4:28 p. m.

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ORINDA ROADS

(Continued from Page 1)

Since numerous technical details are involved in such a transfer, the matter is currently in process of negotiation and it is likely that a comprehensive report will be available from Road Chairman E. H. Sibbett at the association's August meeting.

In the meantime certain individual groups have met their immediate road problems by voluntary action. Notable among these is of course the Minerinda Property Owners Association, which was incorporated when the so-called Cotton tract was originally subdivided.

In addition to an assessment of \$75 per acre for the installation of public utilities, an annual assessment rate of \$15 per acre was established for road construction and maintenance. With 155 acres in the tract available for assessment, approximately one and one-quarter miles of roads were constructed and paid for on a deferred payment basis worked out through cooperation with the road contractor. The total sum involved in the construction project totaled \$10,000 and it is understood that payment of the final note due will be made this fall. The roads were built in 1939 after some funds had been collected through operation of the assessment plan prior to 1939.

The Minerinda roads are 20 feet in width and are generally agreed to represent the best stretch of road system in the community. The heavy rains of the past two winter seasons caused some damage but the total repair work required for proper maintenance thus far has not approached the total sum that will be available each year under the \$15 per acre assessment plan if this is maintained.

Residents on Via Hermosa got together early this year to devise a plan whereby they could put their road into satisfactory shape and the result of this meeting was the formation of a road committee consisting of U. B. Smith, Allen Young, Leo Alexander, H. P. Doten, and Harrison Ketcham, chairman.

The Via Hermosa property owners agreed to accept an assessment up to \$50 per lot and collection of the amount necessary for the road work was undertaken with the provision that construction would not commence until all the money was in the bank.

With 26 lots fronting on the road, a total sum of \$1,300 would be realized if the total collections are completed. When bids were received for the work the contract was let to A. A. Tieslau on a bid of \$1175. Since \$1102 had been collected under the assessment plan and the committee personally guaranteed the remaining balance of \$73, work was started on this road late in July.

Specifications for the Via Hermosa road called for scarifying and the addition of three inches of crusher run base,

grading up to shape for proper drainage, and the addition of a coat of penetrating oil at the rate of one-half gallon per square yard, a coat of hot asphalt, and the top scattered with pea gravel. The road was also rolled and sprinkled between each operation.

County Surveyor Barclay inspected the original specifications before work was started and, after suggesting minor alterations, assured the Via Hermosa road committee that they could expect a very good road. Via Hermosa extends for 2,000 lineal feet and the width of the new road will be 13 feet.

In the case of both the Minerinda association and the Via Hermosa project, the road assessments become a lien against the property if unpaid. The lien privilege was automatic in the case of the Minerinda group because the association was incorporated at the commencement of the subdivision. The power to assess up to \$50 per lot was granted the Via Hermosa group by Hacienda Homes when it was shown that a majority of the property owners acquiesced in the assessment.

Residents on Loma Vista, one of the laterals to El Toyonal, formed their own improvement association in 1938 and purely by voluntary effort raised sufficient funds to put their road into shape. The original assessment was \$25 per lot and subsequent maintenance charges have averaged between \$5 and \$10 per year.

The road extends for six-tenths of a mile and the original subscription was supported 100 per cent by the resident owners on the road. Approximately twenty per cent of the non-resident property owners accepted the assessment.

Experience of these individual groups in meeting the problems posed by their immediate road needs has encouraged formation of other small Orinda road groups but it is generally felt that the ultimate solution of Orinda's general road problem can be reached only through the plan now pursued by the Improvement Association road committee or, at least, by some unified plan along the basic lines it follows.

HIGH SCHOOL (Cont'd from page 1)

Taking advantage of the summer recess, the teachers of Acalanes have been busying themselves with various activities. Miss Ambrose traveled through the Lake Louise country in Canada; Miss Woodyard spent some time in the southwest; Miss Merkel, after returning from a vacation with her parents in Wisconsin, attended summer session at Stanford University. Mr. Rahoot entered the University of California for summer school and Mr. Knight attended the University of California at Los Angeles. Mr. Phillip Merritt, who has just recently been added to the Acalanes staff, is teaching Physical Education at the University of California summer school. Another new teacher for Acalanes is Miss Elizabeth Heffner of Orinda.